



1. Introduction

These decals are intended for the *Airfix 1/76* Mark I or the *Il Principe Nero 1/72* Mark I. Here you find the basics and if more detail is needed consult the works listed in the reference section.

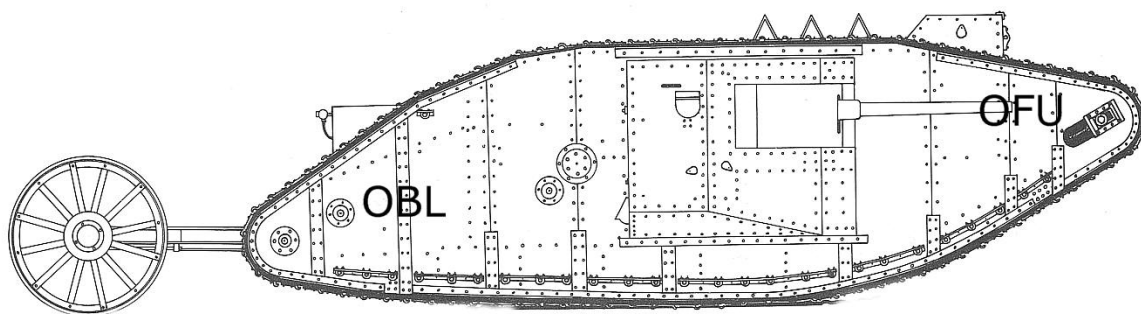
2. Placement

There are in general three possible spots to place these decals on, reflecting the actual usage. See the attached sketches for even more detail. They are:

Outer Front Up (OFU): The marking is placed high up on the outer forward front, not below the track tensioning device, never over it.

Front (FR): The marking is placed on the flat sloping front plate below the drivers cab.

Outer Back Low (OBL): The marking is placed low down on the outer back side, close to, and higher than the two small circular plates there.



3. The Decals

"C.1" to "D.25". All these decals show vehicles used during the late Battles on the Somme, autumn 1916, most were employed in the very first use of tanks in combat, during the Battle of Flers-Courcelette, 15th september 1916. All these very small markings were placed *OFU*, actually in the space ABOVE the track-tensioning device. Note that all of these tanks also had nicknames at least in the records. Here are nicknames for the following tanks: C.6 (Female) "Cordon Rogue", D.11 (Female) "Die Hard", C.2 (Female) "Cognac", C.5 (Male) "Crème de Menthe", and D.9 (Female) "Dolly". "Casa" was a female tank with an unknown number. For a complete list, see Trevors book mentioned below. All "C" tanks belonged to the C Coy, All "D" tanks to the D Coy, Heavy Branch, Machine Gun Corps – that is before the name before it was renamed The Tank Corps. All these Tanks were Mk 1's, all with Tail Wheels. The following Tanks were Gun equipped, a.k.a "Males": C.1, C.3, C.5, C.13, C.19, C.21, C.23, D.1, D.3, D.6, D.7, D.8, D.12, D.17, D.18, D.19, D.20, D.22, D.24. The rest were HMG equipped, a.k.a. "Females". The camo scheme used on these tanks were B1 or B2, individual tanks *could* have been painted according to scheme A. Refer to photos if possible.

"A13 H.M.L.S. We're All In It" was a Mk I (Female, with Vickers MG's and anti-handgrenade netting) of A Coy, Heavy Branch, Machine Gun Corps, used in action in the Somme area, november 1916. Marking *OFU*. Scheme B2.

"29" was a Mk III (Male), used in training, at the Bovington Camp in Dorset in 1917. Marking *OFU*. Camo scheme C.

"790" was a Mk II (Male, with track spuds) used in action during the Battle of Arras in april 1917. Marking *OBL*. Scheme C.

"599" was a Mk II (Female, with Lewis MG's) used in action during the Battle of Arras in april 1917. Marking *OBL*. Body scheme C, Sponsons scheme B2.

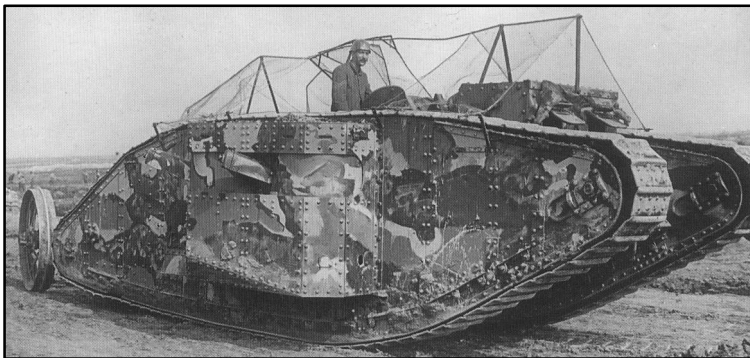
"Lusitania" was a Mk II (Male) used in action during the Battle of Arras in april 1917. Marking *OFU*. Camo scheme C.

"HMLS Sir Archibald", (Mk I Male; name also mentioned on the rear end) "HMLS Pincher" (Mk I Male), "HMLS Kia-Ora" (Mk I Female, Vickers MG's) were all used by the E Battalion, Tank Corps in Palestine 1917. (None had Tail Wheels). Marking *OFU*. Camo Scheme D.

4. Camouflage Schemes

This is a complex subject, but five categories of schemes were used on Mk I-III's:

Scheme A: This is the earliest scheme, a Medium Grey or "Battleship Grey" all over, used up until the early autumn of 1916, before the tanks were used in active service for the first time. Some tanks may have used this scheme in action on the Somme.



Scheme B1:
Disruptive camouflage of Sand, Brown, Green and Pink over Medium Grey. The colours were applied by hand and the patterns were very imaginative. No Black.

Scheme B2: Disruptive camouflage of Sand, Brown and Black over Medium Grey. This was a variation of the standard scheme, introduced soon after the first tanks had landed in France, where often tanks were repainted, with many of the individual patches of colour was given a black outline.

Scheme C: Dark Khaki Brown Overall. After the Somme, during 1917, the colourful scheme gave way to a new, Dark Khaki Brown Overall scheme. Excavated remains of tanks have been found to have traces of paint, that's been described as "dark khaki", say Humbrol Matt 29. This was the standard camo used up until the end of the war.

Scheme D: Sand Colour Overall. Vehicles used in the Middle East are known to have been painted in a Sand colour, a "richer more ochre shade than the 'stone' of World War Two. Just a little yellow ochre and brown paint mixed in the sand-yellow from the Humbrol military vehicle camouflage range achieves the effect". Note: the tanks used by the British in the Palestine Campaigns may very well have been standard Dark Khaki as well, only with the colour turned into a lighter hue due to the fading effects of the sun and the weather.

5. References

David Fletcher: "British Mark I Tank 1916". Osprey New Vanguard 100.

David Fletcher: "Tanks and Trenches". Allan Sutton Publishing Inc. 1994

David Fletcher: "The British Tanks 1915-19". The Crowood Press 2001.

Trevor Pidgeon: "The Tanks at Flers". Fairmile Books 1995.

Thanks to Peter Kempf of www.landships.freeservers.com.